

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney is appreciative of the interview granted by the Examiner on February 18, 2011. At that interview, it was established that the Fukunishi et al reference could not be used as prior art to reject the claims of the application, and the Examiner agreed that both the current rejection and the finality of the rejection would be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Akamatsu et al in view of Fukunishi et al.

The present application has an effective filing date in the U.S. of March 30, 2005, the filing date of the corresponding PCT application.

Fukunishi et al was published subsequent to the filing of the present application, and therefore is not a reference under either 35 USC 102(a) or 35 USC 102(b).

Fukunishi et al was based upon a PCT application filed on July 26, 2004, and because the application was filed in the Japanese language, the date of July 26, 2004, cannot be used as the basis for the rejection. The actual 371(c) date for Fukunishi et al is January 25, 2006, which is subsequent to the filing of the present application. Hence, Fukunishi et al is also not a reference under 35 USC 102(e).

The original Fukunishi et al Japanese application was published on February 24, 2005, which is prior to the filing date of the present application. For that reason, Applicants previously submitted (with the amendment of September 17, 2009) a verified translation of the present priority application, establishing that the present claims are entitled to a filing date of March 31, 2004, prior to the publication date of the Fukunishi et al Japanese patent. The Examiner noted this at the interview, and indicated that the rejection

over Fukunishi et al would be withdrawn.

It was further discussed at the interview that Fukunishi et al had been cited, *inter alia*, to show the claimed cover factor, and in the absence of a reference disclosing a similar cover factor in a corresponding fabric, the rejection could not be maintained.

As to Akamatsu et al, this reference does not disclose a bag, and especially a bag having a warmth-retaining mass packed therein.

Two new claims have been added to the application. Claim 12 recites that the calendering fills interstitial spaces in the fabric, as is disclosed in paragraph [0038] of the application as published.

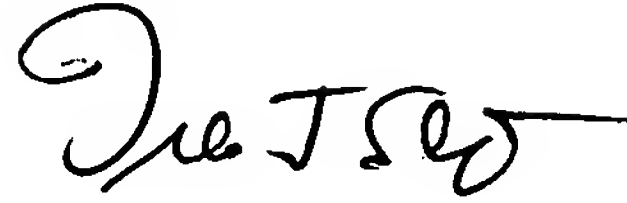
Akamatsu et al discloses that *filaments* are fed through a feed roller and a nip roller, and this process was equated to calendering in the Office action. This process is, however, carried out for elongating the fiber and obtaining a stronger fiber, and is different from the process of the invention in which the fabric itself is fed through a heated roll. Calendering of the fabric results in filling of interstitial spaces of the fabric, resulting in increased waterproofness and warp retention for the treated fabric. That effect cannot be obtained by the elongation of individual filaments as is carried out by Akamatsu et al.

Applicants have also added new Claim 13, directed to the softness parameter of the fabric, as is disclosed in Table 3 of the application.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ira J. Schultz".

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